



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office

78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF

on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr David Donaldson (Chair)
Cllr Clive Veck (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Stephen Fenning
Cllr Tom King
Cllr Mike Livesey
Cllr David Wallin

Ms Nabila Yakub (Town Clerk)
Ms Ana Jagelo (Administration Officer)
Jason Gordon (Community Warden)

5 Members of Public

FC/26/01 Welcome from the Chairperson

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

FC/26/02 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mulinya, Cllr Scott, Cllr Evans and PC England.

FC/26/03 Members' Interests

None.

FC/26/04 Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th December 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

FC/26/05 Public Right to Speak

None.

FC/26/06 Co-option Update on Councillor Vacancies

Cllr Donaldson explained that there are currently two vacancies: one will be filled by co-option at an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on the 4th of February, and the second will also be filled by co-option (as no election was requested), after the co-option advertising period ends on the 20th of February.

FC/26/07 Proposed Amendment to Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment to Standing Orders in relation to changing meeting dates.

FC/26/08 Policies

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Expenses and Allowance Policy, subject to removal of the line regarding non-reimbursement to members of travel expenses within Thanet.
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Working Party Policy.

FC/26/09 Skatepark Update

Cllr Veck reported that Phase One of the skatepark is almost complete (second concrete pour due this weekend, opening hoped for about a week later). Cllr Veck also reported on community fundraising and grants totalling several thousand pounds (including from the Westgate Christmas lights event, GoFundMe and a £5,000 TDC grant), and thanked Kelly's Café and volunteers for their

support, noting that the Council is getting approximately £60,000 of work for about £13-14,000 due to the strong community effort.

FC/26/10 Budget

Cllr Veck, Chair of the Finance Committee, proposed that the 2026/27 budget should raise the precept from approximately £388,000 to approximately £422,000, an increase of about £34,000 or 8.8% (around £14.76 a year / 4p a day extra for a Band D property). Further discussions were postponed due to a breach of confidentiality.

FC/26/11 Councillors' Reports

Cllr Donaldson noted that Thanet District Council has approved the first consultation for a new Margate Town Council, with a shadow council expected in June/July, an estimated 19–20 councillors, a £1.2m precept, and no further update on local government reorganisation.

FC/26/12 County and Thanet District Ward Councillors' Reports

None.

FC/26/13 Report(s) from Steven England, Beat Officer for Westgate and Birchington, and/or Jason Gordon, Community Warden

Jason Gordon, Community Warden, reported ongoing support for Westgate and Birchington, including running a community well-being group, supporting community safety and cybersecurity talks, providing drugs and alcohol awareness sessions, helping a local church serve meals, delivering emergency food supplies, and continuing to report potholes and highways issues.

FC/26/14 Clerk's Correspondence

The Clerk had nothing to add.

FC/26/15 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7pm.

FC/26/16 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Council passed a resolution to exclude Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting Act) 1960. Because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press may be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items:

- (i) Staffing matters

Signed: _____

Date: _____